HISTORIAN



OF HANCOCK COUNTY

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

November 2024

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The guest speaker will be Craig Johnson who will speak about Hancock County WWI Hero Private Henry Jetton Tudury. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. Please call by noon on Wednesday, November 20, to make your reservation. Seating is limited to forty-eight (48) people, and we need to order the correct number of lunches. Served at noon, lunch is \$15.00 for members and \$17.00 for nonmembers, payable at the door. The catering order is submitted on Wednesday at noon prior to the luncheon on Thursday. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call by noon on Wednesday prior to the luncheon if at all possible so that the society does not incur unnecessary expenses. It is catered by Almost Home Catering with Chef Michelle Nichols. The lunch menu is meatloaf with red sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, salad, yeast rolls. and cookie butter cake.





Cedar Rest Cemetery 200 South Second Street

The Thirtieth
Annual Cemetery Tour
Presented by the
Hancock County
Historical Society

By

Beverly Frater

The 30th Annual Cemetery Tour was held from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. at Cedar Rest Cemetery on South Second Street on October 31, 2024. All of the citizens

depicted have, in one way or another, added to the rich fabric of the history of Hancock County, some through commercial ventures, some through local government, and others just by living and rearing families here.

The theme of this year's tour was to recognize persons buried in Cedar Rest Cemetery who lived exciting, special, and/or ordinary lives in Hancock County. We always begin our tour with Kate Lobrano because the house at 108 Cue St. was her Bay St. Louis home and is now the home of the Hancock County Historical Society

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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MAILING ADDRESS:

P. O. Box 3356 Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

108 Cue Street Telephone [228] 467-4090

Email address: hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net

Website:

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LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY 10:00AM — 3:00PM

CLOSED 12—1 (lunch)

MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

KATHERINE C. "KATE" MAYNARD LOBRANO (1871-1921)

Portrayed by Brenda Macaluso

Welcome to the Hancock County Historical Society's 30th annual Cemetery Tour. I am Katherine "Kate" Lobrano.

I was born January 3, 1871 here in Bay St. Louis. My parents were Rebecca Jane Douglas of Charleston, SC and George W. Maynard of St. Louis, MO. My father was a Confederate war veteran, and at the time of my birth, he was Town Marshall

I married Frank J. Lobrano from Plaquemines Parish, LA, on August 4, 1891. Frank and I met when he came to the Bay area to purchase lumber to build homes for his workers in his business in Louisiana. We lived and began our family of six children in Bay St. Louis in a large house on the corner of Main and Cue Streets, but because Frank maintained his Louisiana residency, we also had a home in Point a la Hache, LA. Frank was elected Clerk of Court there. He also served as Justice of the Peace and Postmaster.

Frank gained notoriety as the founder and developer of the process by which oysters are domestically cultivated and was

President's Corner

BAY ST. LOUIS THE TOWN BEAUTIFUL

Excerpted from a Sea Coast Echo article published on August 23, 1924

As a man is frequently judged by his appearance, so are towns and cities regarded. Every locality is just that which its residents make it.

It has been noted that Bay St. Louis sentiment is strong for the town beautiful. There are many beautiful and humble towns, the latter well vie with the former where the premises are kept at a high mark of cleanliness; where the weeds are noted for their absence, the grass for its carpet-like evenness, and shrubbery and plants for their selection and appearance that indicate care and attention. These things indicate that someone lives there.

No town has a better and more attractive asset than in instances where the sidewalks and yard premises show care and attention all year round. Visitors are impressed, realty values are enhanced and all in all one loves to linger in a town of this kind and where possible make it the place we love to call home. We note old dwellings on every side are in process of remodeling and new ones not the exception. Bay St. Louis truly is on the eve of great things. The metamorphosis is in rapid process. Where the fishing village of yesterday was pictured, today in its place is the town beautiful.

Chris Roth President



Katherine Lobrano welcomes guests to the Annual Cemetery Tour.

quite successful. However in 1915 the government cut openings in the banks near the mouth of the Mississippi River and the fresh water infusion killed the oyster beds. The business failed, and we were forced to sell the large house here. We retained the small house behind, now known as the "Kate Lobrano House," which my family donated to the society in 1989.

In December of 1917 I

was stricken with skin cancer. My mother was also ill, so she and I lived in the small house. I succumbed to the cancer on January 19, 1921, at the age of fifty.

I now invite you to meet some of my neighbors who rest here with me.

JACINTO LOBRANO (1783-1880)

(Frank Lobrano's great-uncle—Buried in New Orleans)

Portrayed by Tom Stone

I am Jacinto Lobrano. I am not buried in Cedar Rest, but was invited here tonight as a special guest. I was born in Naples, Italy, in 1783 and was at Elba when Napoleon surrendered. Because of Political unrest in Italy. my father and I left our homeland and became sailors, making several voyages between Gibraltar and Havana. On a visit to New Orleans in 1809. I met Jean Lafitte and joined his band of men. I became a favorite officer of Lafitte and served under him along with General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. In 1815, General Jackson presented me with one of his swords in appreciation of my During the Civil War, service. when I was told that the Union General Benjamin Butler might seize my sword, I swore I would cut his head off!



Jacinto LobranoA great uncle of Kate's husband,

I lived a full life and died in New Orleans on November 12, 1880, at the age of 97, the last of Lafitte's buccaneers. I kept all of my teeth, hair, and eyesight until the end.

My great-nephew Francis Jacinto Lobrano (named for me!) was born in 1870 in Point a la Hache in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. His wife, Kate, just told you about his success in the oyster seeding business. Frank was 10 when I died. I'm glad that I got to know him for a while.

My obituary in the Daily Picayune read in part: Here lies a man who has looked on the great Napoleon; who sailed with Lafitte in the Gulf of Mexico; who fought the British at Chalmette, and received a sword from the hands of the hero of that battle. The span of this aged veteran's life joined the present with the distant past—a past that reached back into the last century.





POWHATTAN ROBERTSON

explains why she was moved from her first burial site to Cedar Rest.

POWHATTAN (?-1820?)

Portrayed by Beverly Frater

Cedar Rest cemetery was deeded to the city in three parts. The north section was given by J.B. Toulme, the middle area was a swap between St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the city, and the south segment was given by Joan Newman Seal. The plots were given to families in the manner of homesteads—free, but with the responsibility of claiming the plot by physical markings.

In the swap between St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the city, the graveyard received the remains of the old St. Charles Street

graveyard, which included Native Americans. Most of them were reburied in the middle section. We have at least two sites of Indian graves here. One contains the remains of an Indian family, and the other contains the remains of Powhattan Robertson, whose grave, for some reason, is in the south section over there. Her grave is the oldest MARKED grave in the cemetery.

Powhattan Robertson's slab reads "died in Shieldsboro, Oct. 1820 in the bloom of youth." From this description we can surmise that she was a young Indian maiden who could have lived in the Choctaw village of "Chicapoula" [chik a pool ah] which was located where Carroll Ave. is now. *Chicapoula* means "bad grass" and was the Indian name for this area. Because her last name is Robertson, she was probably the child of a European father and Indian mother.

In 1819 a storm and tidal wave swept the village of Chicapoula out of existence and drowned most of the inhabitants. Was Powhattan's death the result of another great storm a year later? Was it the result of yellow fever or of some European disease such as smallpox introduced into the Americas by explorers? Are the deaths of other Native Americans buried here the result of disaster, disease, or natural causes? We may never know.

GINGER BURKE PARADISE (1924—1967)

Portrayed by Joal Stone

I am Ginger Burke Paradise, the Gypsy Queen. I was born on September 27, 1924, in Fort Worth, Texas, and later married Tony Paradise of Rt. 1, Bay St. Louis.

Little is known about my life, but my death is another matter.



GINGER BURKE PARADISE

The Gipsy Queen welcomes guests with her tambourine.

In 1967 at age forty-three I was hospitalized in the Bay and died three days later. Because I was a gypsy queen, a large, celebratory funeral was held at the site of my burial in Cedar Rest. Unfortunately for people living, today but fortunately for me, the actual site of my grave is unknown. Following gypsy custom, the grave has no identifying marks in order for the queen not to be taken from her resting place.

Also following custom, the gypsy king conducted my service, and I was buried in a robe of bright gypsy green with a wax cross in my hand and family jewelry adorning my body. In addition I was buried with a comb, a brush, work clothes (needed on the other side), and other necessities to make the trip

across the River Styx.

I was buried in a Wilbert Vault—a vault fit for a queen—of ultra high-strength concrete with a reinforced bronze interior to resist corrosion. Non-gypsies and gypsies alike attended the service, but no pictures were allowed because the gypsies believe that pictures steal one's soul. A big celebration somewhat like a wake was held with many friends enjoying food, drink, and dancing.



WILLIAM DOLAN, THE PHANTOM BARBER

The Barber keeps his scissors handy to add hair to his collection.

WILLIAM DOLAN THE PHANTOM BARBER (1892-1954)

Portrayed by Jim Keating

Who am I? I was buried in this grave as William A. Dolan in 1954. My body was found floating in the Mississippi River attached to a creosote piling. I was the man accused in Pascagoula as "THE PHANTOM BARBER," for cutting the hair of little girls in the middle of the night, although I was tried for another crime. I was born in New York City and had a long criminal record. I was arrested in Bay St. Louis on July 9, 1942, at the height of WWII, and was tried, convicted, and sent to prison for ten years.

After my release, I lived in Bay St. Louis for a while and then disappeared. After the body was found in the Mississippi River, and identified by family and friends, it was brought to Bay St. Louis for burial. I was waked for three days at home and then buried in this unmarked grave, BUT when my fingerprints were checked with the FBI they proved that I was not William Dolan.

Who am I in this grave? No one knows!

A book by Sandra Moncrief, The Phantom Barber, gives further details



DJURO RADULOVIC (1810-1850)

Portrayed by Jim Codling

I am Djuro Radulovic. I was born in the town of Herceg Novi, Bay of Kotor in Montenegro on March 22, 1810. I come from a seafaring family. My father was a ship owner, and I was a ship's captain.

Shipping was a long tradition in the Bay of Kotor, and over three hundred ships were sailing out of that bay when I was born. My father was a ship owner when Napoleon's troops occupied Kotor in 1806. However, by the time I was born, the country was under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Times were very difficult then, particularly for people of property. The oppressive Austrian authorities



DJURO RADULOVIC He came to the New World to escape political problems in his home country.

pushed many seamen to the New World, usually to the ports of New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans. The first to begin settling in the New Orleans area came in the 1830's. Most of us came to this area because it resembles our Mediterranean home, and I came to Bay St. Louis because it is very much like Herceg Novi.

My marble tombstone is written in Syrilic, the Slavic language and translates:

Here rests the bones of DJuro Radulovich, son of Spiro and Simana. Born in Novi, Bay of Kotor, on March 22, 1810. His soul went to Heaven on March 20, 1850. He lived under the law of the Eastern Rites Jerusalem Church [Eastern Orthodox Church].

DAVID DOW POSEY (?-1917)

Portrayed by Ron Thorp

My name is David Dow Posey. I died in 1917 and rest in peace next to my wife and several relatives.

I was a road commissioner, and I came to Hancock County from Brookhaven, Mississippi, a few years before my death to serve as superintendent of the building of a logging railroad for the Ingram-Day Lumber Company of Lyman. With our six children my wife and I settled in White Cypress, some eight miles north of Kiln. I was a dedicated Mason and an active member in Lodge 429 and in Lodge 456 in the Caesar community.

I shouldn't have left this world so early, but some people said I was "sowing wild oats." Perhaps it would be more appropriate to call it wild corn. I guess what I'm saying is that over indulgence in moonshine whiskey and arrogance on the roads led me to a bad end. I'd like to tell you my story.



David Dow Posey
He and his family came to Hancock County for him to build a logging railroad.

I remember that it was a balmy Sunday afternoon and I was out driving and partying with friends. Two of my black employees were with me. Some people wanted to blame them for what happened, but I know I was under the influence of liquor and very quarrelsome that day. We had stopped on the road, and a few of us were having a conversation when Deputy Sheriff Oscar Favre drove up. He told me I was disturbing the peace with my language and behavior and asked me to desist. Well, I just told him, "I built these roads and I can do whatever I want thereon." Favre took out his gun and shot me! My body was found the next morning on the public highway near Bayou Talla on the road leading to Poplarville.

Deputy Sheriff Favre admitted in the preliminary hearing that he had shot me. He told Judge M. E.

Ansley that he had given me a chance to stop my rowdy behavior. But you know what that moonshine does to you. The two black men testified as to what they had seen. Representing Favre was W. J. Gex, and representing the county was Emile J. Gex, prominent attorney and landowner.

Well, Favre was acquitted in Circuit Court that spring; he was a member of one of the oldest and best-known families in the county. I was just a nobody from Brookhaven. I am not saying that Favre should have been convicted or that the law was bent to his favor. But I am saying that it sure created a hardship for my wife and six children. She had to move away from Hancock County after my death, and for that I am truly sorry

CHARLES GRAY (1934-2022)

Portrayed by Chris Roth

Hello. I am Charles Harry Gray. I was born in Waynesboro, MS, on March 5, 1934. After graduation from Waynesboro High School, I attended Mississippi Southern College, now the University of Southern Mississippi. I then served in the 15th Infantry Regiment of the US Army, from 1956-1958 and spent most of that time in Europe, which allowed me to travel throughout the continent.

I went to New Orleans to a New Year's party and stayed for 43 years. There I met my life partner, Jim Plauché, owner of Corinne Dunbar's Restaurant on St. Charles Avenue. Together we ran the iconic Creole Restaurant, regularly serving locals and luminary guests such as Walt Disney, Ernest Hemingway, So-



Charles Gray
He was the Executive Director of the
Hancock County
Historical Society for
20+ years

phie Tucker, Liberace, and the Andrews Sisters.

Jimmy and I loved to take ocean cruises, and from the early '70s until his death in 2000, we took a multitude of cruises and visited 159 countries.

After we sold Corinne Dunbar's in 1984, we bought historic Beachwood Hall in Bay St. Louis, which I spotted when sailing from New Orleans to Key West.

Wanting to learn the history of our 1840s Greek Revival home, I visited the Hancock County Historical Society, which had only six members at the time. I joined the Society and was immediately appointed Vice President.

Through the following forty -plus years, I served in every capacity possible at the Society and was eventually appointed Executive Director for life.

CEMETERY TOUR

Following their tour through Cedar Rest Cemetery and learning the interesting lives of a few of those buried their, visitors were invited to the Lobrano House for punch, hot dogs, cookie, candies, and other Halloween treats.











Thank you!

The Hancock County Historical Occiety extends a very grateful thank you to the following for their support.

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Please pay your 2024 HCHS dues. You may send a check to P. O. Box 3356, Bay St. Louis, MS, 39521 or pay by credit card at the website. Please pay no later than March 31, 2025.

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SILVER SLIPPER

In the October Historian, we mistakenly ran the wrong ad for the Silver Slipper and apologize for any inconvenience it caused for the Silver Slipper and our members.

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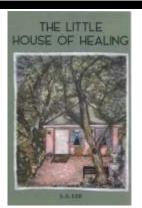


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In The Little House of Healing, nine individuals—including a newly divorced woman and a resilient cancer survivor—find solace and a fresh start in Miss Luck's peaceful Bay St. Louis cottage. This inspiring novel delves into themes of redemption and the resilience of the human spirit.

Amazon.com/author/lllee

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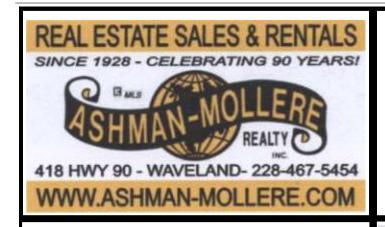
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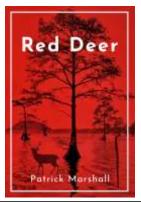
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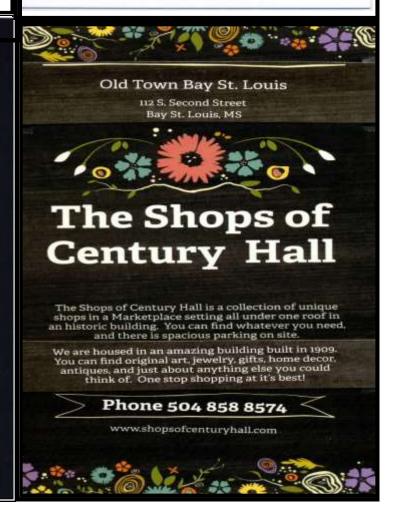
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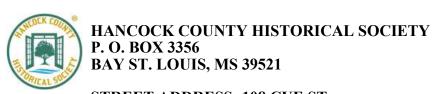
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